

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A nail softener composition for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a nail modification, containing from 2 to 50 wt. % of at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, cream, or gel, and wherein the deformed nail is softened and restored to a normal condition when said composition is applied to a deformed nail with an external force.
2. (Original) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.
3. (Original) The nail softener as defined in claim 2, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.
4. (Original) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.
5. (Previously withdrawn) An enclosure for an external chemical, comprising:
 - an enclosure body receiving said external chemical therein and having an opening for exposing said external chemical when used;
 - a sealing film for allowing said external chemical to be sealingly enclosed in said external chemical;
 - an adhesive layer provided at the peripheral portion of said opening of said enclosure body; and
 - a releasable film releasably attached to said enclosure body by use of said adhesive layer,wherein after said releasable film is removed, said adhesive layer serves as an adhesive portion for allowing said enclosure body to be attached to a diseased area.

6. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said sealing film is attached to said enclosure body by use of said adhesive layer so that said releasable film is served by said sealing film.
7. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said sealing film is adapted to be broken or pulled out of said enclosure body so as to allow said external chemical enclosed in said enclosure body to be exposed to the outside thereof.
8. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in either one of claims 5 to 7, wherein said opening has a size equal to or greater than that of said diseased area.
9. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in either one of claims 5 to 8, wherein said enclosure body includes a ring-shaped pad, and an external-chemical enclosing pocket located on the top surface of said ring-shaped pad.
10. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in either one of claims 5 to 8, wherein said external chemical contains at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate.
11. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in claim 10, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.
12. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in claim 11, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.
13. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in either one of claims 10 to 12, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.
14. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in either one of claims 5 to 8, wherein said external chemical is a mixture of at least one reducing agent selected from

the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, and a curative drug for said diseased area.

15. (Previously withdrawn) The enclosure as defined in either one of claims 5 to 8, wherein said external chemical is a curative drug for said diseased area.

16. (Previously Withdrawn) A method of correcting a deformed nail, comprising the steps of:

applying a nail softener containing at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, onto a diseased area of a toenail;

leaving said diseased area untouched for a given period of time to soften said nail:

during or after said leaving step, applying a given force onto said nail to reposition said nail to its normal state; and

immobilizing said nail in said repositioned state for a given period of time to hold said repositioned state.

17. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises carotene, keratin, protein, or calcium.

18. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises an antifungal or antimycosis drug.

19. (Canceled) The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is present in an amount of from 2 to 50 wt. %, based upon the total weight of the composition.

20. (Previously presented) A nail softener composition for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a nail modification, the composition comprising at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate; and further comprising carotene, keratin, protein, or calcium, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, cream, or gel.
21. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.
22. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.
23. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.
24. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises an antifungal or antimycosis drug.
25. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 20, wherein said reducing agent is present in an amount of from 2 to 50 wt. %, based upon the total weight of the composition.
26. (Previously presented) A nail softener composition for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a nail modification, prepared by adding an emulsifying agent substance to a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, to form a cream, paste, or gel.
27. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is thioglycolate.

28. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is ammonium thioglycolate.
29. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is subjected to a deodorizing treatment.
30. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises carotene, keratin, protein, or calcium.
31. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises an antifungal or antimycosis drug.
32. (Previously presented) The nail softener as defined in claim 26, wherein said reducing agent is present in an amount of from 2 to 50 wt. %, based upon the total weight of the composition